

# April is National Sexual Assault Awareness Month

**Defining Sexual Assault:** Sexual assault is *conduct of a sexual nature which is non-consensual*, and is accomplished through threat, coercion, exploitation, deceit, force, physical or mental incapacitation, and/or power of authority.

**Conduct of a Sexual Nature:** Sexual assault includes a wide range of sexual behaviors and sexual activity. Some examples include rape, forcible sodomy, incest, child sexual abuse, unwanted sexual contact or touching, sexual exploitation, forced prostitution and sex trafficking, and sexual harassment.

**Non-consensual:** Sexual assault occurs when someone experiences sexual activity that they *did not consent to or did not want*. Consent cannot be given if a person is underage, drunk, high, unconscious, or physically or mentally incapacitated. A person can change their mind about sexual activity at any time and withdraw consent.

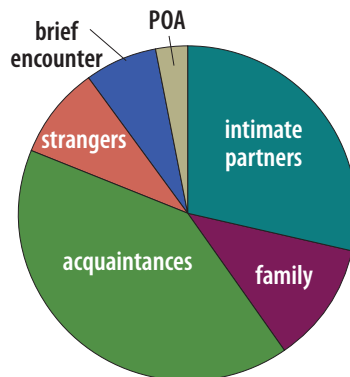


## The Realities of Sexual Assault NATIONAL STATISTICS



Almost **1 in 2 women** (47.6%) and nearly **1 in 4 men** (23.3%) were victims of contact sexual violence at some point in their lives.

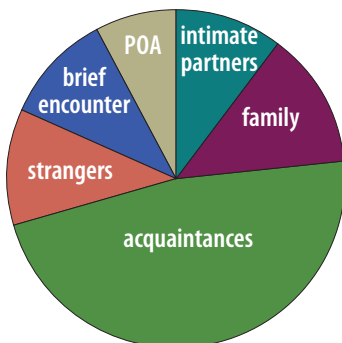
Among female rape victims, perpetrators were reported to be intimate partners (39.3%), family members (16%), acquaintances (56.1%), strangers (12.1%), brief encounter (9.6%), and person in authority (POA) (4%).



**49%** of female rape victims were first raped *before age 18*.

**34.9%** of female rape victims were first raped *between the ages of 11–17*.

**14%** of female rape victims were first raped when they were *age 10 or younger*.



Among male rape victims, perpetrators were reported to be intimate partners (12.5%), family members (16%), acquaintances (57.3%), strangers (13.7%), brief encounter (12.8%), and persons of authority (POA) (9.2%).

**56.6%** of male rape victims were first victimized *before age 18*.

**26%** of male rape victims were first victimized when they were *age 10 or younger*.

If you or someone you know is a victim of sexual assault, please contact the **Virginia Family Violence & Sexual Assault Hotline at 1-800-838-8238 (24-hours/day, toll-free)**

For additional sexual assault-related information and resources, please visit the **Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance website at [www.vsdvalliance.org](http://www.vsdvalliance.org)**.

You may also contact the toll-free Virginia Victim Assist Helpline at 1-855-443-5782.



# April is National Sexual Assault Awareness Month

## The Realities of Sexual Assault VIRGINIA STATISTICS

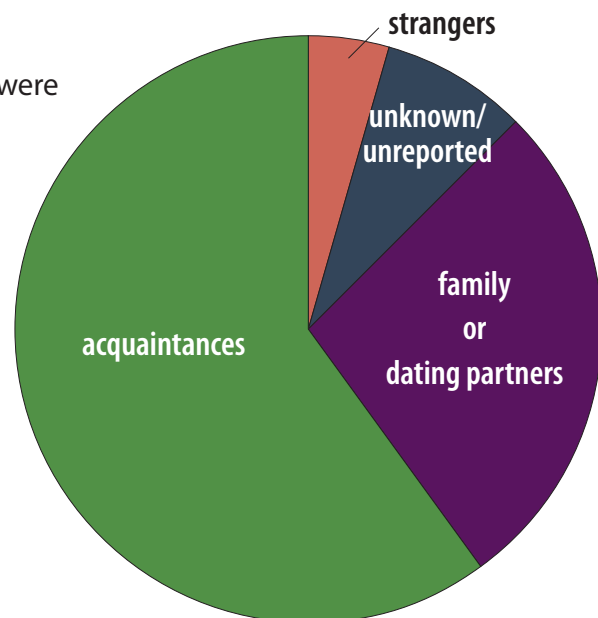


The total number of  
**VIOLENT CRIMES** reported  
in 2021 includes  
**5,350 forcible sex offenses**  
involving **5,706 victims.**



Forcible sex offenses reported include forcible rape, forcible sodomy, sexual assault with an object, and forcible fondling. Of the reported victims of forcible sex offenses, the vast majority (85%) were female.

The majority of forcible sex offenses (83%) were committed by perpetrators known by or acquainted with the victim, including a substantial percentage of offenses by family or household members or dating partners (38%). Of the remaining offenses reported, 11% were committed by unknown/unreported assailants, and 6% were committed by strangers.



**Over half (56.6%)**  
**of reported victims,**  
**both male and female,**  
**were under the**  
**age of eighteen.**

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### Sources:

Smith, S.G., Chen, J., Basile, K.C., Gilbert, L.K., Merrick, M.T., Patel, N., Walling, M., & Jain, A. (2018). *The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS): 2015 Data Brief-Updated Release.* Atlanta, GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Virginia State Police, *Crime in Virginia*; 2020.

